

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A disc cleaner comprising:
a housing defining a slot, a disc being at least partially insertable into the slot and supportable by the housing in a vertical orientation; and
a drive assembly at least partially positioned within the housing and engageable with the disc to rotate the disc in the vertical orientation.
2. The disc cleaner of claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to expose a portion of the disc, including a center hole of the disc, when the disc is supported by the housing, the disc capable of being handled for insertion into and removal from the slot by the center hole.
3. The disc cleaner of claim 1, wherein the drive assembly includes a plurality of rollers engageable with the disc and a motor coupled with at least one of the rollers to drive the at least one roller, the at least one driven roller operable to rotate the disc.
4. The disc cleaner of claim 1, further comprising a switch for actuating the drive assembly when the disc is at least partially inserted into the slot.
5. The disc cleaner of claim 4, wherein the switch is engageable by the disc when the disc is at least partially inserted into the slot.
6. The disc cleaner of claim 4, wherein the switch is coupled to the drive assembly and is activated when the disc engages the drive assembly.
7. The disc cleaner of claim 4, wherein the switch is a sensor and actuates the drive assembly when the presence of the disc is sensed within the slot.

8. A disc cleaner for cleaning a disc having a data reading surface that is readable by an electrical component, the disc cleaner comprising:
a housing for the supporting the disc;
a drive assembly supported by the housing and engageable with the disc to rotate the disc; and
means for retaining and providing a cleaning agent;
wherein cleaning agent is applicable to the data reading surface of the disc while the disc is supported by the housing.

9. The disc cleaner of claim 8, wherein the housing supports the disc in a vertical orientation.

10. The disc cleaner of claim 8, wherein the housing defines a slot into which the disc is partially insertable, a portion of the disc being exposed, including a center hole of the disc, when the disc is inserted into the slot and supported by the housing.

11. The disc cleaner of claim 10, wherein cleaning agent is applicable to the data reading surface of the exposed portion of the disc when the disc is inserted into the slot.

12. The disc cleaner of claim 8, further comprising a cleaning agent container connected to the housing and having cleaning agent therein, the cleaning agent container facing the disc in order to apply cleaning agent to the reading surface of the disc.

13. The disc cleaner of claim 12, wherein the housing defines a cavity and the cleaning agent container is removeably connected to the housing by inserting and removing the cleaning agent container into and from the cavity.

14. The disc cleaner of claim 12, wherein the cleaning agent container is permanently connected to the housing.

15. A disc cleaner for cleaning a vertically oriented disc, the disc cleaner comprising:
- a housing that facilitates handling of the disc by its central hole;
 - a drive assembly disposed within the housing, the drive assembly frictionally rotating the disc by its perimeter; and
 - a switch for actuating the drive assembly when the disc is at least partially inserted in the housing.
16. The disc cleaner of claim 15, wherein the housing defines an elongated slot in a top surface thereof, the disc being at least partially insertable into the slot to be supported by the housing in a vertical orientation.
17. The disc cleaner of claim 16, wherein a portion of the vertically oriented disc, including the central hole, is exposed when the disc is supported by the housing.
18. The disc cleaner of claim 17, further comprising a cleaning agent container connected to the housing and having cleaning agent therein, the cleaning agent container being positioned to apply cleaning agent to the exposed portion of the vertically oriented disc.
19. The disc cleaner of claim 15, further comprising a wiper assembly for cleaning the vertically oriented disc.
20. The disc cleaner of claim 19, wherein the wiper assembly is releasably connected to the housing and includes a cover, a rod connected to the cover, a wiper arm, a wiper pad connected to the wiper arm and engageable with the disc, and a spring supported by the rod and operable to bias the wiper pad toward and into contact with the disc.

21. The disc cleaner of claim 15, wherein the drive assembly includes a plurality of rollers and a motor, each roller defines a channel for receiving and frictionally engaging the perimeter of the disc, wherein at least one of the rollers is coupled to and driven by the motor to rotate the vertically oriented disc.

22. The disc cleaner of claim 21, wherein one of the rollers is coupled to the switch to actuate the drive assembly when the disc engages the one of the rollers.